15. The method of Claim 11 wherein the dietary protein is a protein hydrolysate comprising greater than 30% by weight of di- and tri-peptides and has a non protein nitrogen concentration of at least 85% of total nitrogen.

16. The method of Claim 11 wherein the dietary protein is selected from the group consisting of protein hydrolysates having a degree of hydrolysis of at least about 15%; free amino acids; and mixtures thereof.

17. The method of Claim 16 wherein the dietary protein increases protein concentration and synthesis in the jejunum.

18. The method of Claim 11 wherein the dietary protein is a protein hydrolysate which comprises greater than 20% by weight of di- and tri- peptides and which has a non protein nitrogen concentration of at least 60% of total nitrogen.

19. The method of Claim 11 wherein the mammal has a compromised gut function.

20. The method of Claim 11 wherein the dietary protein is a protein hydrolysate.

21. The method of Claim 20 wherein the mammal is a premature baby and the protein hydrolysate increases protein concentration and synthesis in underdeveloped intestines of the premature baby.

22. The method of Claim 21 wherein the protein hydrolysate comprises greater than 30% by weight of di- and tri-peptides and has a non protein nitrogen concentration of at least 85% of total nitrogen.

23. A method of enhancing the growth of a selected organ in a patient comprising the steps of administering a composition including a dietary protein that increases protein concentration or synthesis in the organ the dietary protein being selected from the group consisting of protein hydrolysate, free amino acids, or mixtures thereof.

24. The method of Claim 23 wherein the dietary protein includes protein hydrolysate having a degree of hydrolysis of at least 30%.

25. The method of Claim 23 wherein the select organ is the small intestines.

26. The method of Claim 23 wherein the patient is a premature baby.

27. A method for enhancing the recovery of a damaged organ comprising the steps of administering a composition including a dietary protein that increases protein concentration or synthesis in the organ the dietary protein being selected from the group consisting of protein hydrolysate, free amino acids, and mixtures thereof, to a patient having a damaged organ.

28. The method of Claim 27 wherein the damaged organ is damaged due to a disease.

29. The method of Claim 27 wherein the dietary protein includes protein hydrolysate having a degree of hydrolysis of at least 30%.

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed on January 17, 2001. The Office Action rejects Claims 1-6 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 101; the claims have not been rejected based on any prior art. Claim 7 has been withdrawn from consideration.

Pursuant to this Amendment, Claims 1-10 have been cancelled and Claims 11-29 added. Claims 11 through 29 claim methods of treatment as opposed to a use. In this regard, Claim 11 and the claims that depend therefrom, i.e., Claims 12-22, claim a method for promoting the growth or recovery of a specific organ in a mammal. Claim 23 and the claims that depend therefrom, i.e., Claims 24-26, claim a method of enhancing the growth of a select organ in a patient. Claim 27 and the claims that depend therefrom, i.e., Claims 28-29, claim a method of enhancing the recovery of a damaged organ. Applicants submit that this amendment adds claims that are at least as broad, if not